IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amendment) A method for ~~authenticating a holder of~~ <u>providing information about a holder of</u> securities<u>, the method</u> comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing customer information ~~concerning~~ <u>in a securities company server that manages customers</u> ~~in a storage unit~~ <u>of a securities company, the customer information including a name and a postal address of each customer of the securities company</u>;

acquiring transaction information concerning a transaction ~~that has been agreed in an exchange~~ <u>of securities which involves a customer as a purchaser</u>; ~~and~~

identifying ~~a~~ <u>as the</u> holder of <u>the</u> securities ~~after the transaction~~ <u>the customer who has purchased the securities</u> by ~~comparing~~ <u>consulting</u> the transaction information ~~with~~ <u>and</u> the customer information<u>;</u>

<u>storing information about the name and postal address of the identified customer in the securities company server; and</u>

<u>making the stored information about the name and postal address of the identified customer accessible to a public company that originally issued the securities purchased by the identified customer.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

associating holder information concerning the ~~holder~~ <u>customer</u> identified with information concerning a person who issues securities and storing associated information in the storage unit; and

retrieving the associated information when the person who issues securities requests a retrieval and searching for information concerning a related holder.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the holder of securities after the transaction has paid an amount by a given deadline; and

deleting the holder information concerning said holder of securities from the storage unit when it is determined that the amount has not been paid by the given deadline.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program that causes a computer to implement a process for ~~authenticating a holder of~~ providing information about a holder of securities, said program causing the computer to ~~function as~~ execute a method comprising:

~~means for~~ storing customer information ~~concerning~~ in a securities company server that manages customers ~~in a storage unit~~ of a securities company, the customer information including a name and a postal address of each customer of the securities company ;

~~means for~~ acquiring transaction information concerning a transaction of securities which involves a customer as a purchaser ~~that has been agreed in an exchange~~; ~~and~~

~~means for~~ identifying ~~a~~ as the holder of the securities the customer who has purchased the securities ~~after the transaction~~ by ~~comparing~~ consulting the transaction information ~~with~~ and the customer information;

storing information about the name and postal address of the identified customer in the securities company server; and

making the stored information about the name and postal address of the identified customer accessible to a public company that originally issued the securities purchased by the identified customer.

5. (Currently Amended) An authentication apparatus comprising:

means for storing customer information concerning customers in a storage unit;

means for acquiring transaction information concerning a transaction that has been agreed in an exchange; and

means for identifying a holder of securities as a customer who has purchased the securities after the transaction by comparing the transaction information with the customer information.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for performing an information process using holder information concerning a holder obtained by an authentication apparatus which authenticates a holder of securities, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring the holder information;

storing the holder information in a storage unit; and

selecting a given item of holder information from among the holder information stored in the storage unit and sending given information to a holder related to the given item of holder information selected.

7. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 6, wherein said given information includes an IR (Investor Relations) information.

8. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 6, wherein:

the securities are stock certificates; and

said given information is related to stockholders of stocks.

9. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 6, wherein:

the holder information includes information about the number of securities on a stockholder basis; and

the information processing method further comprises the steps of selecting holders on the basis of information about the number of securities and sending the given information to only the holders selected.

10. (Withdrawn) The information processing method according to claim 6, wherein:

the holder information includes information about a serial number assigned to each of the securities; and

the information processing method further comprises the steps of selecting holders on the basis of information about the serial number and sending the given information to only the holders selected.

11. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program that causes a computer to execute a given information process by using holder information concerning a holder of securities obtained by an authentication apparatus that authenticates the holder of securities, said program causing the computer to function as:

means for acquiring the holder information;

means for storing the holder information in a storage unit; and

means for selecting a given item of holder information from among the holder information stored in the storage unit and sending given information to a holder related to the given item of holder information selected.

12. (Withdrawn) An information processing apparatus that executes an information process by using holder information concerning a holder of securities obtained by an authentication apparatus that authenticates the holder of securities, said information processing apparatus comprising:

means for acquiring the holder information;

means for storing the holder information in a storage unit; and

means for selecting a given item of holder information from among the holder information stored in the storage unit and sending given information to a holder related to the given item of holder information selected.